



Smith Named Agricultural Development Administrator

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MADISON –Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Ben Brancel has announced Daniel Smith as the agricultural development administrator. Smith began his duties on October 21.

“After completing numerous interviews, I am pleased to name Daniel Smith as the division administrator of agricultural development,” said Brancel. “He has the demeanor, approach and knowledge that will add to our agency and benefit our state’s agricultural industry, and I look forward to working with him.”

Most recently, Smith was the Chief Executive Officer of Midwestern BioAg in Blue Mounds. As the CEO since July 2011, he implemented a strategic plan to accomplish the company’s long-term goals and served as the company spokesperson.

Previously Smith had worked at DATCP in the Wisconsin Farm Center as an economic advisor assisting farmers in difficult financial situations. He analyzed loan portfolios, cash flows, balance sheets and farm management plans for individual farmers.

“It is really wonderful to be back at DATCP, and I am very appreciative to Secretary Brancel and his team for their confidence,” said Smith. “I know that DATCP has good people and does very good work, and I am excited to get started in this position.”

Smith operated his own dairy farm in northwestern Illinois for more than thirty years. He implemented a multi-year plan to transform his farm to a low-input, grass-based system utilizing rotational grazing. Smith received the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society 2008 Land Stewardship Award.

He now lives with his wife, Cheryl, on a farm in Iowa County. Smith has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As the agricultural development administrator, Smith will be responsible for guiding the efforts of local, regional and international marketing. He will also direct the farm and business development services available through the division.

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